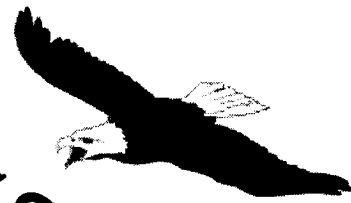


They shall mount up...

ON EAGLES' WINGS



AERY NUGGETS

...with wings as eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

June 2012

“Stand Fast”

We need to take it to heart, beloved brethren, that there is an immense power continually at work to move our souls away from the great fundamental realities of Christianity. All our natural tendencies are to drift away from what is of God. Hence we have in the Holy Scriptures these repeated exhortations to “*Stand Fast*”. Such exhortations would have no point if there was not a danger of our being moved away from our true position and the proper joy of our blessings.

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”. 1 Cor. 16:13

The first article of the Christian faith is that “Christ died for our sins”

The Apostle Paul wrote, 1 Cor. 15: 3 & 4 “*I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures,*”

Other scriptures tell us that He was delivered for our offenses, that He bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that He by Himself purged our sins, entirely and eternally settling the question of our sins by His “one sacrifice.” But here the fact on which special emphasis is laid is that “He died for our sins.” It was necessary, in order to His bearing sins, that He should become a Man, and take part in flesh and blood. Though there was in Him no taint of sin and no liability to death, in perfect grace He took part in a life in which He could bear sins and be made sin for us – a life which He could lay down. He fully glorified God about our sins, and has laid down the life in which He bore them. “Without shedding of blood is no remission”. There is no removal of sins apart from death. The very life in which alone He could bear sins is ended; there is

complete removal of the whole thing. “Christ Died for our sins.”

And further, He was buried, and rose again the third day. After bearing sins and dying for them He is risen from the dead. He lives now in a condition in which He can never bear sins, or come under death and judgment. After enduring and exhausting the full desert of our sins He has entered as the Risen One without spot into the unclouded light of God’s presence, and God holds every believer to be clear of sins as He is. This is justification. “*He was raised again for our justification.*” Rom. 4:25 There is a Man before God upon whom no spot can ever come, against whom no charge can ever be laid, a Man in unclouded and eternal acceptance, who is there as having dealt with and removed “our sins” to the perfect satisfaction of God. We are before God as clear of sins as He is. The knowledge of this **should** give changeless peace. “*Being justified by faith, we have peace with God Though Our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

But many believers are not at perfect peace before God because they have not yet seen that Christ must be everything for them, and that it is only as being “In Christ Jesus” that they can have any place in God’s presence. They have begun to distrust, and to be dissatisfied with themselves, but they have not yet altogether given themselves up. Christ has yet a certain place in the faith and the affections of their hearts, but they do not know what it is to be “In Christ Jesus”, and to have Him as their “*wisdom, righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.*” You will never have true Christian experience and joy until you learn in your soul that there is nothing about you – as in the flesh – but material for the judgment of God. You may think this is a hard saying, but I press it as the indispensable precursor of perfect rest and joy in Christ.



There are two things which go to make up "man"; Wisdom and Power. Deprive man of these two things and he is reduced to a nonentity. But God has completely set aside man in the flesh as to both his wisdom and power that no flesh should glory in His presence. *1 Cor. 1: 29-31* "That no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. That according as it is written, He that glorified, let him glory in the Lord."

There are three things manifested in the Cross of Christ:

1. That man in the flesh has been fully exposed to the very roots of his moral being.
2. That this exposure was dealt with according to the holiness of God.
3. That divine love has broken every barrier that man in sin has caused, that this love might flow out and delight itself in the perfect blessing of its objects.

The cross of Christ has closed our history before God as children of Adam, and God has now put us in a new position in Him who is raised from the dead. So that these words are true of all believers, "Of him are ye in Christ Jesus".

So now the question, what is the gain of being In Christ Jesus?

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." *1 Cor. 2:12* Not simply that we might know about them, but to know the things themselves.

Christ Jesus is of God made unto us Wisdom. Moreover Christ becomes the touchstone and the test for everything.

Christ Jesus is of God made unto us Righteousness. How many are going about at this very day, as of old, to establish their own righteousness! Some think that they must be, or do something to improve, or maintain, their title to be in God's favor. We have a righteousness that is divinely perfect; we never did, and never could, contribute a fraction to it, and nothing can ever dim its brightness, or take from its excellence. God would have our hearts maintained in the wonderful joy of this from day to day. I dare say most of us hold it as doctrine, but to what extent are hearts in the real good and present joy of the glorious fact that Christ Jesus is

of God made unto us Righteous?

"Stand Fast....In the Liberty"

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1

When we seek our own righteousness we put ourselves in bondage to the flesh. The mark of a man walking in the Spirit is that he is maintained in constant distrust of himself, and in constant satisfaction with Christ.

"Stand Fast in One Spirit"

There is a danger of being selfishly occupied with our individual blessings, and forgetting that we are identified with a great and holy cause. The testimony and cause of God and of Christ is committed to us, and the maintenance of the whole depends upon each individual being true to his post. It is not so much the outward service of the hands, and feet, and lips, though this is important in its place, but the loyal spirit of hearts that seek not their own things, but the things which are Jesus Christ's. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jew or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. *1Cor. 12: 12, 13 & 18.*

"Stand Fast in the Lord"

"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord," Phil. 4:1

"Rejoice in the Lord.....Rejoice in the Lord always", not in circumstances, however bright, but in the Lord. If circumstances were dark the joy would not suffer if it was "in the Lord." If we were thus standing fast in the Lord do you think it would often make a great difference? Perhaps half our lives would have to drop out of existence, and the other half be strangely altered! Everything that could not be connected with the Lord would have to go, if we were truly standing fast in the Lord.

Adapted CAC "The Believer Established"

OEW welcomes the submission of articles to be considered for publication. If so led, please forward to Bob Niebling at

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